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Convention Committees

On Saturday, August 2, 1941, at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the State Association of Wisconsin Architects, the following committees were appointed to handle the preparations for the 10th Annual State Convention to be held in Madison on the 19th and 20th of September at the Hotel Loraine.

GENERAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE

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National Defense and Post Emergency Building Programs

Digest of address delivered before the A. I. A. Convention in Yosemite Valley, California, by Thomas S. Holden, President of F. W. Dodge Corporation.

We are entering the eighth year of construction volume increases and in the first four months of this year, as recorded east of the Rockies, there has been an increase of 51 per cent over first fourth months of last year. Private work has been on the increase and continues upward.

The defense program authorized by Congress last year provided two billion dollars worth of construction. The first program is tending to taper off and without additional appropriations, the volume in the latter part of the year will be very small. Supplemental programs are now under consideration in Washington and $800,000,000 for program of cantonment building has been mentioned. More Federal loans and the like are in prospect for industrial plant expansions, and Defense Housing is likely to continue for some time, as the needs have not been met.

It is well to consider the impact of this program on the private market for the purpose of gauging the extent of the problems in the post-emergency period. A first tendency is toward rising building costs. The cost of the small frame house has risen nine to ten per cent but in view of fact that demand is continuing, costs have evidently not risen to the point of discouraging private building.

Taxes will be an important factor that will affect private building. The impact of increased income taxes and excess profits taxes will tend to discourage private projects of high valuations and at a time when national income will probably exceed that of 1929, demand is being held in check by high taxes and prospects of even higher ones.

Another factor is the probability of priorities and allocations. So far they have principally affected metal materials. A repetition of the type of priority that was put in effect in late 1917, which said you should not undertake any private building project over $25,000 without a certificate of necessity is not thought to be probable now. Proposals have been made for curtailment of private building by economists outside of Government on the theory that by curtailing demands now a backlog of demand for the post emergency period would be created. Mr. Eccles, of Federal Reserve Board, is a proponent of this idea.

It seems to be the conviction of many in the administration that a maximum of civilian activities, which are possibly consistent with defense, be maintained, so that the dislocation in the building industry may not be quite as extreme as in the 1917 affair.

It is important to know these things so that a future situation may be analyzed and representations made to the authorities in Washington. Avoidance of general price inflation is very important and chances of doing so are good. Avoidance of extreme dislocation in the building industry will tend to minimize potential post-emergency problems.

It is obvious that upon tapering off of defense activities there will be unemployment and housing surpluses in defense centers. A way in which to minimize these problems is to avoid planning mistakes.

The above are some of the things going on now and which we need to be aware of. Some of the things which people can plan in order to meet these post-emergency situations as they occur are being given serious consideration by business groups, economists outside of the Government, and people in the Government.

A report of the National Resources Planning Board, transmitted to the President on December 31, 1940 is constructive and commendable.

In order to provide a "shelf" or "reservoir" of public construction projects, the Board recommends:

1. Continued efforts to secure the preparation of *six-year programs or capital budgets by* Federal agencies, State governments, local governments, and other agencies, public and private.

2. *Development of alternative lists of projects* included in six-year programs according to size of the project, types and locations of the skilled and unskilled labor involved, etc.—all in relation to employment stablization.

3. *Immediate inauguration of surveys*, investigations, and preparation of engineering plans and specifications for selected projects through allocation of aids to Federal and non-Federal agencies from a revolving fund to be administered by the President through his Executive Office.

(*Continued on page 5*)

10th ANNUAL CONVENTION

of the State Association of Wisconsin Architects

to be held in Madison, Wisconsin, on SEPTEMBER 19, 20, 1941

See the August Issue of the Wisconsin Architect for details

Voell to Direct Public Works Reserve

Appointment of Leo J. Voell, of Milwaukee, as Wisconsin director of the Public Works Reserve to coordinate future projects in anticipation of possible post-war unemployment, was announced by Federal Works Administrator John Carmody July 28.

Voell said he has begun a preliminary survey of possible public works projects in Wisconsin designed to cushion labor's transition from emergency defense production to peacetime activities.

Thirty-one other state directors were named with Voell. They will integrate local, state and national efforts with federal aid in a future program estimated to reach between $25,000,000,000 and $30,000,000,000 in six years. An inventory of future public works needs of the nation will be initiated by the directors at a series of regional conferences.

In 1934 Voell was appointed chief of construction of the housing division of PWA, with headquarters in Washington. From February, 1935, to March, 1936, he supervised construction work at Parklawn, and from 1936 to 1938 he was Wisconsin PWA director.

Camp McCoy to be Enlarged at Cost of Nearly $23,000,000

Construction of additional buildings at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, to provide accommodations for 30,000 to 35,000 troops has been authorized by the war department, it became known July 30 with the announcement by C. N. Ward of the engineering firm of Mead, Ward & Hunt, State Journal building, Madison, Wis., that his firm has been retained to direct the work. Charles S. Whitney, 724 E. Mason St., Milwaukee, is associated consulting engineer on the project.

Mr. Ward said the total cost of the work would be $22,800,000 and will involve construction of barracks, mess halls, a hospital, and water, highway and railroad facilities, and electrical service. The war department allows three months for preparation of the plans and six months to complete construction. Preliminary work is expected to start Sept. 1.

From 300 to 400 engineers will be needed to lay out the camp and direct construction work and Mr. Ward said his firm is on the hunt for men.

British Architects Study Problem of Reconstruction

Royal Institute Submitted Memorandum to the Minister of Works and Buildings, and He Has Explained that Now He is Consulting Experienced Professionals to Assist in Rebuilding

(*This memorandum and the reply is reprinted from* THE ARCHITECTS JOURNAL).

Below is the text of a Memorandum recently submitted to the Minister of Works and Buildings by the R.I.B.A.

The Royal Institute of British Architects exists for the purpose of promoting the art of architecture in town and country.

In the work of post-war reconstruction every member of this Institute is directly interested, for the problems of reconstruction are precisely those which come within the purview of the architect's professional activities. The Royal Institute as a whole, representative of the vast majority of the most fully qualified architects in the kingdom, feels its responsibilities in this matter towards the community whose interests in the fields in question it—and it alone—is able to serve in a comprehensive and representative way.

The training and practical experience of the qualified architect bring him into contact not only with the design of buildings, but with major and ancillary problems connected with it. Town planning, transport, planning for industry, housing, finance, legal questions, organization and administration of projects of construction, are all matters which become daily familiar to architects with extensive practices. For the practice of architecture today is not confined solely to plan and elevation, still less to transforming works of practical building into ordered architectural coherence. The qualified architect is a man conversant with those same factual problems of broad aspect which confront a Minister of Works and Buildings, a Minister of Planning, a Minister of Reconstruction.

The policy of the Royal Institute of British Architects towards post-war planning and building is based on its long experience of ordered and effective approach towards problems of this kind. This experience leads conclusively to a few simple but important directives. Amongst these are the necessity (a) *for policy to precede* planning; (b) *for planning to precede* execution; (c) *for work to be both conceived* and executed through full utilization of the trained technical skill of the professional and trade elements which comprise the building industry, and in accordance with a procedure the practical value of which has been proved by decades of experience.

The Royal Institute considers that architects are a vital part of the building industry, that its architect members form a learned society within this industry through the nature of their training and calling, but that they remain fully cognizant of their role as creative working members of a great industrial community. The Royal Institute dissociates itself most categorically from any other points of view. It realizes also that this is the occasion for the architect to take the lead among the other professions concerned in planning, designing and building for reconstruction. The policy of the Royal Institute at this juncture, which offers such wide possibilities for the improvement of living and working conditions, is that of cooperation with those Government agencies which are charged with a solution of the problems involved. It therefore offers its experience and assistance, not only as a unit in building industry activities, but separately and parallel in its own specialized field.

The Royal Institute asks of the Minister of Works and Buildings that its offer of immediate assistance should not be considered as a routine or empty gesture of cooperation. As a unique body of technicians and specialists it has the right and duty to ask that on the problems of construction and reconstruction which concern the country *it should be consulted, that its resources and experience should be utilized, and that Government policy should include consultation with*

(*Continued on page 6*)

(Continued from page 3)

4. *Advance authorization by the Congress* of procedures for grants, loans, guaranties of loans, leasing arrangements, or other devices for aids to State and local governments for non-Federal projects.

5. *Advance authorization by the Congress* of construction of Federal projects in six-year program of "A" priorities.

6. *Appropriation for advance purchases of sites* of projects by appropriate governmental agencies.

7. *Development of method of financing public works* projects and studies of related problems of investment, taxation, and the Federal, State, and Local shares of responsibility.

8. *Coordination of public works* construction at all levels of government, with other public policies.

This report has been transmitted to Congress but no legislation has been passed to put it into effect.

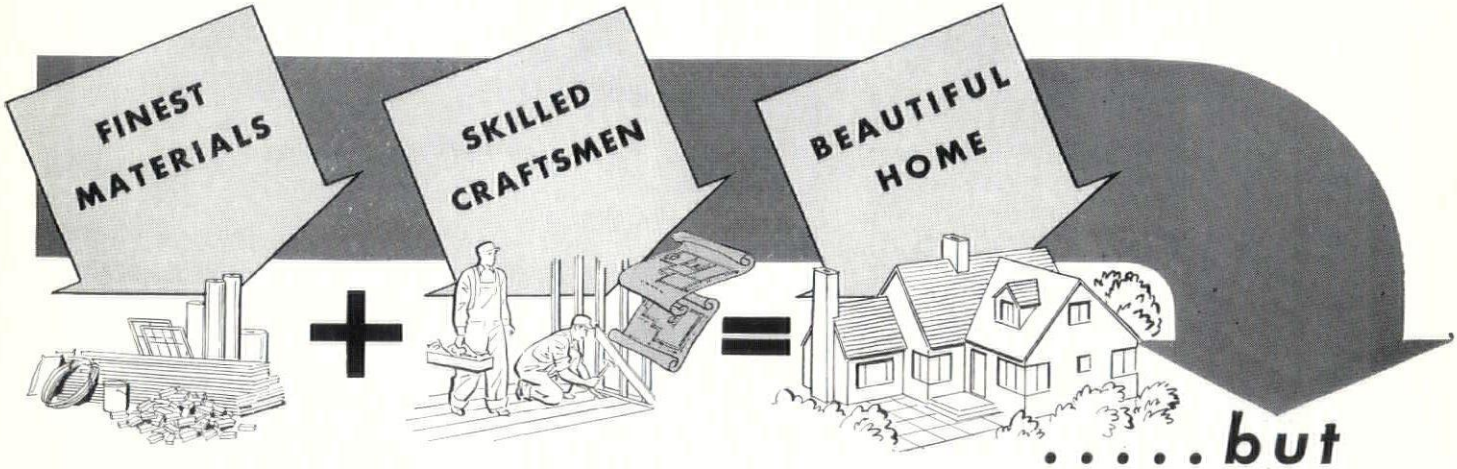
Another program has been suggested which resulted from a National Conference of Real Estate Taxpayers held in Washington recently. It presented a petition to Congress that it set up a National Tax commission of experts to study the whole pitchwork structure of taxes. Any simplification of the complicated general tax pattern would be a constructive help. Both President Roosevelt and Mr. Wilkie have recommended the formation of such a commission.

In the report of the Board of Directors of the A. I. A. a recommendation was made for action on problem of rebuilding cities. Unfortunately most large scale planning has heretofore been done by the Government. A step forward has been made in New York by passage of "The Urban Redevelopment Corporation Law," under which a specially chartered redevelopment corporation may, after it has acquired 51 per cent by the assessed valuation and 51 per cent by area of the property that it plans to redevelope, condemn the rest. Another inducement is the remission of taxes, for a period up to a maximum of ten years. Under this bill the municipality may also agree to take over open spaces to maintain as parks; and, as it chooses, close streets, change street levels and do other things to assist in development of proper planning. This Act has a significance beyond New York, as it has been watched by a great many people all over the country and similar bills are pending in Illinois, Mississippi and Utah.

Another important factor is to conquer the spirit of defeatism that has been so prevalent through the country. This is being done.

Twenty-two years ago circumstances made us the most powerful nation in the world. We did not wish to assume that responsibility. We said "Let's go back to normalcy." We tried to achieve our destiny by running away from it. The postman is ringing twice and we are having a second chance. This time we have to meet our responsibility.

We must fix our eyes on the future. The past is only a prologue. A civilization does not die until it becomes too tired and confused to go on living. A vital civilization must achieve new things if it is to fulfill its destiny, and it will demand a great architecture—an architecture which, like Boulder Dam, the Golden Gate Bridge, Rockefeller Center, etc., will express the very living guts of America.



.....but is it planned for maximum convenience and comfort?

Many new, beautiful homes — masterpieces in design and construction — do not provide modern conveniences and comfort beyond that of the traditional home planned years ago. Such homes are "out-of-date" even before completion. In many cases, the importance of architectural supervision was not recognized. The present demand is for homes in which "everything" is done electrically, — lighting, cooking, water heating, refrigeration and numerous other household tasks. The All-Electric home with its adequate wiring system is the accepted standard for lasting modernity — a home that is planned for maximum convenience and comfort.

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THE ELECTRICAL LEAGUE *of* MILWAUKEE

(Continued from page 4)

the Institute as a preliminary to the making of far-reaching decisions on building and debuilding policy.

It has a right and duty to ask that its machinery, well established as it is, should be utilized, and that any Government Department charged with fresh and inspiring problems concerning the country's welfare should be alive to the errors which have accompanied, and will always accompany, all attempts to short-circuit properly qualified advice and experience.

The problems involved in reconstruction, in particular, are so complicated that there is a danger of basic solutions being discarded in favour of experimentation based on untried assumptions: it will be fatally easy to bring about repetition of the mistakes which followed after the 1914-18 war. Questions of public authority, of control of licensing; of standards and standardization; those of transport, the location of industry, zoning in general, are but a few with which the Ministry has already no doubt been concerned, but which are also the concern of the Royal Institute and upon which it holds views to which due weight should be accorded. It is concerned with all legislation present and future which affects those whose future building plans are already being formulated and who look to an early pronouncement on a policy which will define their rights and possibilities. It is concerned also with the necessity for providing an ordered transition back to civilian work on the cessation of hostilities. It is, above all, concerned with all plans and schemes for the betterment, through works and building, of conditions as they existed in the immediate pre-war period; and it will view with alarm and disquiet any evidence of attempts to create such plans without proper consideration and without the guidance of those best qualified to assist in their formation.

Members of the public are apt, at this time, to refer to the great opportunities, the splendid field of work, open to the architectural profession, and to the Royal Institute in particular. Alas! such opportunities can easily be nullified where the Government, through its appropriate Departments, does not show trust in its professional counsellors.

(Continued in August issue)

Concrete Stain Removal

(Continued from June issue)

URINE STAINS

Use methods as outlined for tobacco stains. Should the stain prove stubborn, saturate cotton batting in the liquid and paste over remaining stain. Resaturate the cotton if necessary.

LUBRICATING OIL STAINS

Lubricating oil penetrates some concrete readily. It should be mopped off immediately, covering the spot with Fuller's earth or other dry powdered material such as hydrated lime, whiting or dry portland cement. If treated soon enough, there will be no stain. However, when the oil has remained for some time, other methods will be necessary.

Saturate white Canton flannel in a mixture of equal parts of acetone and amyl acetate and place over stain. Cover with slab of concrete or pane of glass. If stain is on a vertical surface, improvise means to hold

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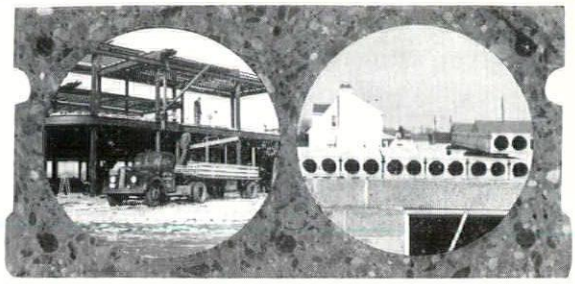

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cloth and its covering in place. Keep the cloth saturated until stain is removed. If the solvent tends to spread the stain, a larger cloth should be used. Covering saturated cloth with glass drives the stain into the concrete, while dry slab of concrete draws some oil into it. Scrubbing with gasoline or benzine will often remove oil stains.

ROTTEN WOOD STAINS

Under damp conditions, wood will rot and cause a chocolate-colored stain which is readily distinguished from most other stains by its dark color. The best treatment is that recommended for fire stains. Action may be accelerated by first scrubbing the surface thoroughly with glycerin diluted with four times its volume of water.

COFFEE STAINS

Coffee stains can be removed by applying a cloth saturated in glycerin diluted with four times its volume of water. Javelle water, or the solution used on fire stains, is also effective.

IODINE STAINS

An iodine stain will gradually disappear of its own accord. It may be removed quickly by applying alcohol and covering with whiting or talcum powder. If on a vertical wall, mix talcum to a paste with alcohol, apply some alcohol to the stain, then cover with the paste.

PERSPIRATION STAINS

Secretions from the hands or oil from the hair may produce stains on concrete. The stain is brown or yellow and may be mistaken for an iron stain. The best treatment is that recommended for fire stains. Bad stains may require several treatments.

GENERAL SERVICE STAINS

When areas of terrazzo floors become yellow while adjacent slabs remain free from discoloration, the trouble is probably due to the original finishing of the floor. Such discolorations are not usually hard to remove by poultice methods, or may yield to a surface scrubbing with Javelle water. Javelle water can usually be purchased at drug stores or may be prepared as follows:

Dissolve 3 lb. of washing soda in 1 gal. of water. Mix 12 ounces of chlorinated lime to a paste in a shallow enameled pan by adding water slowly. Mash the lumps. Add the paste to soda solution, make up to 2 gal. by adding water, and place in a covered stoneware jar to settle. Use the clear liquid when required, diluting with six times its volume of clear water. Use as a soap or other scrubbing solution, first rinsing the surface with clear water. Javelle water is a strong bleaching material, and should not be allowed to drop on colored fabrics. It is not recommended for general cleaning purposes, but its occasional use on stained concrete is believed to be entirely safe.

Poulticing with commercial grit scrubbing powders, such as those used for cleaning marble floors, will prove satisfactory for removing most stains of this class. In poulticing with these, the material is slowly stirred into a pail of hot water until a thick paste of mortar consistency is obtained.

Architect's Report

Auler, Jensen & Brown, E.R.A. Bldg., Oshkosh, Wis. General, Heating-Ventilating, Plbg. and Wiring. Bids close 2:00 P.M. August 12, 1941.

Bogner, Harry, 759 N. Milwaukee St., Milwaukee. Boiler Room for Fred A. Mayer Shoe Co., Milwaukee. Bids closed.

Robert S. Chase, Residence sel. or com. white brick to be built at Janesville, Wisconsin. Plans and specifications prepared in progress. Sol. brick. Steel Casement Wds. Approx. Cost $7,000. Dr. Melville W. Smith, Owner. Janesville, Wis.

Clas & Clas, Inc., 759 N. Milwaukee St., Milwaukee, Underwood School addition, Wauwatosa, Wis. W.P.A. Project. General Contractor, E. C. Knuth Const. Co., Electrical Contractor, Howard Lewis, Plumbing, Wenzel & Henoch, Heating Contractor, John Brennan.

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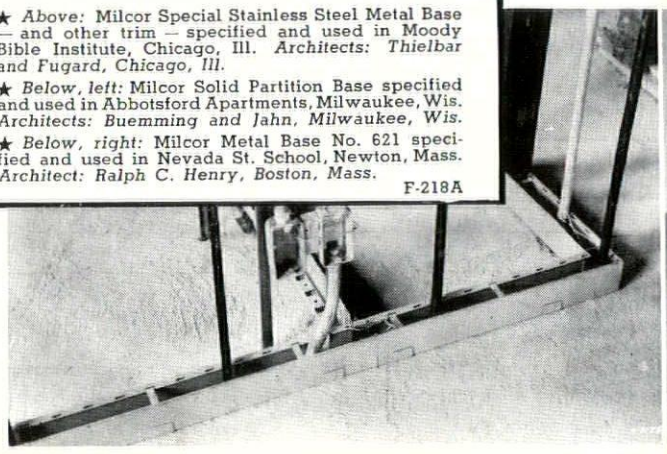
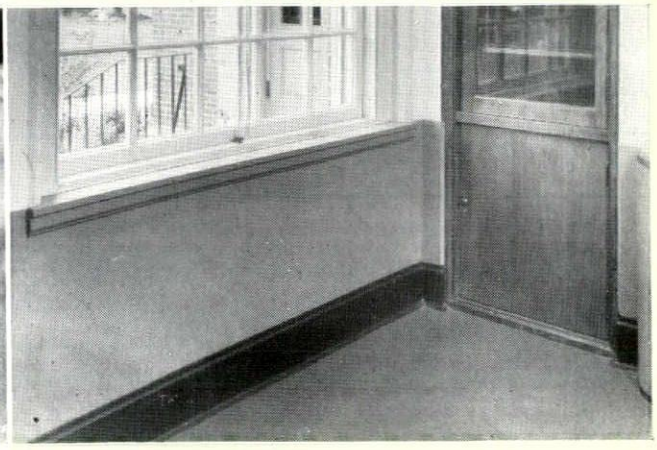
★ *Below, left:* Milcor Solid Partition Base specified and used in Abbotsford Apartments, Milwaukee, Wis. *Architects: Buemming and Jahn, Milwaukee, Wis.*

★ *Below, right:* Milcor Metal Base No. 621 specified and used in Nevada St. School, Newton, Mass. *Architect: Ralph C. Henry, Boston, Mass.*

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